IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

K. NISHIOKA, et al.

SERIAL NO.

(Con. of 08/913,840)

FILED

24 January 2002

FOR

PROCESSOR

GROUP ART

2783 (Anticipated)

EXAMINER

J. FOLLANSBEE (Anticipated)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of this continuation/continuation-in-part application, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1:

Before the first line, please insert: -- This is a continuation of application number 08/913,840 filed 12 September 1997 and is a continuation-in-part of application number 08/681,180 filed 22 July 1996, now patent number 5,870,618. --

Page 29:

Line 18, replace "of" with -- as --.

Page 33:

Lines 18, replace "test" with -- dest. --.

Page 35:

Line 4, replace "band" with -- bank --.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to insert a claim to the priorities under 35 USC §120 of co-pending Serial Nos. 08/913,840 and 08/681,180.

A supplemental preliminary amendment amending the claims will follow.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned with any questions that may arise.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 24 January 2002

David J. Zibel/1/ (Reg. No. 36,394)

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